

**Amendments to the Claims**

Please amend the claims as shown below.

1. (Currently Amended) A computer system for customizing form elements under development in a form building application, comprising:

a form builder component configured to receive an identification of a user of the form building application, the form building application providing a graphical user interface for manipulating a set of form elements under development, the form elements including an element for global attributes of the form including the layout of the form, the form building application configured to display the set of form elements separate from the form, the form elements indicating authorization for the user to develop the form element when the form element is accessible to the user, and to enable access to the user for developing a subset of the form elements according to an access manager,

authorization rules permitting the selection of form elements wherein the authorization rules ~~include settings that~~ identify the subset of the form elements accessible to the user independent of any data in the form elements ~~determined~~ via a lookup table separate from the form, the lookup table containing the authorization rules; and

the access manager component configured to retrieve the authorization rules associated with the user's authorization to develop the set of form elements using the user identification, and configured to enable access to the user for developing the form elements according to the authorization rules.

2. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the identification of the user is based on login information.
3. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the subset of form elements accessible to the user is determined solely via the lookup table.
4. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the authorization rules include settings that identify the subset of the form elements which are viewable and/or changeable.

5. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for customizing form elements under development in a form building application, comprising:

in response to receiving an identification of a user of the form building application, the form building application providing a graphical user interface for manipulating a set of form elements under development, the form elements including an element for global attributes of the form including the layout of the form;

retrieving authorization rules associated with the user's authorization to develop the set of form elements, using the user identification;

displaying the set of form elements separate from the form, the form elements indicating the authorization for the user to develop the form element when the form element is accessible to the user; and

enabling access to the user for developing a subset of the form elements through a lookup table separate from the form where the lookup table contains authorization rules associated with the user identification ~~that include settings~~ identifying the subset of form elements accessible to the user independent of any data in the form elements.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the identification of the user is based on login information.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, wherein the subset of form elements accessible to the user is determined solely via the lookup table.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the authorization rules include settings that identify the subset of the form elements which are viewable and/or changeable.

9. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for customizing an electronic form including form elements under development, comprising:

displaying a set of form elements separate from the electronic form, the form elements indicating the authorization for the user to develop the form element;

responsive to a command by a user to change an element of the form under development, retrieving a permission list from a lookup table separate from the form using an identifier associated with the user, the permission list identifying access rights for developing a

plurality of form elements contained in the form independent of any data in the form elements, the form elements including an element for global attributes of the electronic form including the layout of the electronic form;

comparing the identifier associated with the user to the access rights for the form element to be changed through the lookup table separate from the form; and

rejecting the command unless the access rights associated with the user's identifier permit the user to change the form element.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the command by the user to change the form element includes selecting in a form building application a node representing the form element.

11. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the access rights are defined for form elements representing a form's corporate identity.

12. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the access rights are defined for form elements representing a form's interface to an application program.

13. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the access rights are defined based on at least one of user id, job title, department code and position in the corporate hierarchy.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, further comprising:  
giving authorization to all electronic form elements to a first user of the electronic form;  
and  
for each successive user of the electronic form only giving authorization to all those electronic form elements to the successive user that have not yet been edited.

15. (Withdrawn) A form editing method in a computer system, comprising:  
when a form document is opened by a document editor of the computer system,  
identifying a role of an editing user;  
when a user's role meets a first condition, providing a first toolset in the document editor that permits the user to change form layout and document styles of the form document,

when a user's role meets a second condition, providing a second toolset in the document editor that permits the user to change form elements of the form document, and

otherwise, providing a third toolset in the document editor that permits the user to change other features of the form document,

wherein the first and second conditions are mutually exclusive.

16. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the form building application is configured to display only the set of form elements that the user is authorized to modify.

17. (New) The system of claim 1, wherein the form elements indicate authorization for the user to develop the form element visually by being at least one of: enabled, unfrozen, and displayed in the form building application.

18. (New) The system of claim 1, wherein the authorization rules include settings that identify the subset of the form elements accessible to the user based on the form element itself independent of any data contained in the form element.

19. (New) A computer system for customizing form elements under development in a form building application, comprising:

a form builder component configured to receive an identification of a user of the form building application, the form building application providing a graphical user interface for manipulating a set of form elements under development, the form elements including an element for global attributes of the form including the layout of the form, the form building application configured to display the set of form elements separate from the form, the form elements visually indicating authorization for the user to develop the form element when the form element is accessible to the user, and to enable access to the user for developing a subset of the form elements according to an access manager,

authorization rules permitting the selection of form elements wherein the authorization rules identify the subset of the form elements accessible to the user independent of any data in the form elements through a lookup table separate from the form, the lookup table containing authorization rules for each form element; and

the access manager component configured to retrieve the authorization rules associated with the user's authorization to develop the set of form elements using the user identification, and configured to enable access to the user for developing the form elements according to the authorization rules.

20. (New) The system of claim 19, further comprising:

giving authorization to all form elements to a first user of the electronic form; and

for each successive user of the electronic form only giving authorization to those form elements to the successive user that have not yet been edited.

21. (New) A computer-implemented method for customizing form elements under development in a form building application, comprising:

responsive to receiving an identification of a user of the form building application,

the form building application providing a graphical user interface for manipulating a set of form elements under development, the form elements including an element for global attributes of the form including the layout of the form,

retrieving authorization rules associated with the user's authorization to develop the set of form elements, using the user identification;

displaying at least one form element separate from the form, the displayed form element indicating to the user the authorization for the user to develop the form element based on the authorization rules; and

enabling access to the user for developing a subset of the form elements through a lookup table separate from the form where the lookup table contains the authorization rules associated with the user identification, the lookup table being configured to identify the subset of form elements accessible to the user independent of data in the form and the form elements.

22. (New) The method of claim 21, further comprising:

giving authorization to all form elements to a first user of the electronic form; and

for each successive user of the electronic form only giving authorization to those form elements to the successive user that have not yet been edited.

23. (New) The system of claim 1, further comprising:
- giving authorization to all form elements to a first user of the electronic form; and
- for each successive user of the electronic form only giving authorization to those form elements to the successive user that have not yet been edited.
24. (New) The method of claim 5, further comprising:
- giving authorization to all form elements to a first user of the electronic form; and
- for each successive user of the electronic form only giving authorization to those form elements to the successive user that have not yet been edited.